

Graduated Driver License (GDL) for new drivers:

The GDL allows novice drivers (ages 15 1/2 to 18) to gain knowledge and driving experience while under the supervision of an experienced mentor as they progress through the learning stages. These laws were enacted for the safety of young drivers. A citation for violating restrictions of a GDL in Evansville is \$114.00 and three points.

Wisconsin's Graduated Driver License (GDL) law went into effect in 2000 to help give new, young drivers a healthier, safer start to their driving career. The GDL law was crafted to:

- Give beginning teen drivers more practice time behind the wheel before getting a probationary license
- Restrict teen drivers from being on the road during late night hours when the risk of injury is high
- Limit the number of passengers who are at risk while riding with teen drivers
- Allow teen drivers a longer and safer driving experience before earning an unrestricted license

Restrictions on an instruction permit:

First and foremost, you must be accompanied by someone occupying the seat beside you who has at least two years licensed driving experience, presently holds a valid regular (non-probationary) license and is one of the following:

- a qualified instructor age 19 or older, or
- a parent, guardian or spouse, age 19 or older. In addition to the parent, guardian, or spouse, a member of your immediate family may occupy seats in the vehicle other than the front seat, or
- a person other than a parent, legal guardian, or spouse who is age 21 or older. No other passengers are allowed. If you are under 18 years old, the licensed person accompanying you is required to have written authorization from your parent or legal guardian prior to the operation of the vehicle.
- During the first nine months you have your probationary license, or until you turn 18, restrictions will limit who can ride with you, the hours you can drive by yourself, and late night/early morning driving. The restriction will state, "No passengers except immediate family, driving instructor, one other person. In addition, from midnight to 5 a.m. a parent, guardian, driving instructor or one other licensed person age 21 or older must be seated beside licensee, unless licensee is driving between his or her home, school, or work." Restrictions will be extended if you violate them, are convicted of a moving traffic violation, or your license is revoked or suspended for any reason.
- Points assessed as a result of a conviction for a moving violation are doubled for second and subsequent convictions while holding an instruction permit or probationary license.

- If you will be operating a vehicle during hours of darkness, you must be accompanied by a qualified instructor or a licensed person at least **25** years of age who has at least two years of licensed driving experience occupying the seat beside you.

GDL requires more practice time for teens before they become licensed. It keeps teens in lower risk driving situations when they are first licensed. Probationary drivers are taken off the road more quickly for multiple driving offenses. GDL hours and passenger restrictions no longer apply once you turn 18. However, you will still be operating under a probationary license so points assessed for traffic convictions will double for every violation after your first.

For more information contact:

Bureau of Driver Services

(608) 266-2353

Email: driverrecords.dmv@dot.state.wi.us

Source: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/teens/gdlfaq.htm>